

differed materially from your drawing, which I consider to represent either a distinct species or, from the peculiarity of the bill and feet, a bird of the first year. The bill, feet, and legs were of a *flesh-colour*; the plumage of the head, neck, wings, centre of the back, tail, and thighs glossy-black; remainder of the plumage white. These birds are readily domesticated, and run about the poultry-yard in the most amicable manner possible. The beak, feet, and legs were of the same colour when hatched; and the bird, dating from the time it was brought forth, would be one year and eight months old."

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### *Obituary Notice.*—ARTHUR HENFREY, F.R.S. &c.

IT is with the most painful feelings that we have to announce to our readers the death of Professor Arthur Henfrey, which took place on the 7th of September, at the age of thirty-nine. In the prime of life, in the fulness of his intellectual vigour—with the great battle of fame, the life-struggle of the professional man of science, nobly fought and won—with the rewards of his persevering and conscientious exertions within his grasp,—this great and gentle spirit has passed from the scene of his labours, leaving a mournful void in the affections of his personal friends, and casting a blight over those expectations which every one must have formed for him, of a brilliant and useful career in the department of science to which he had devoted himself.

Professor Arthur Henfrey was born at Aberdeen, of English parents, on the 1st of November, 1819. He studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was a great favourite with his teacher, Dr. Frederick Farre. On leaving the Hospital, in 1843, when he became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, the delicate state of his health, arising from a tendency to bronchial affections which adhered to him throughout his life, prevented him from the practice of his profession; and from that time he devoted himself exclusively to the study of Botany, in which science he had already acquired great proficiency; and by a course of unremitting diligence in investigation, he speedily placed himself in the foremost rank of English botanists. In the year 1847 he was appointed Lecturer on Botany at the St. George's Hospital School of Medicine, and in 1854 succeeded the late Professor Edward Forbes in the Botanical chair at King's College. This position he retained until his death, and in the course of the last few years added to it the offices of Examiner in Natural Science at the Royal Military Academy and to the Society of Arts. At the same time his labours were incessant, both in botanical observation and in

literature; and it is to be feared that these unintermitted exertions in the cause of science must have been one of the causes of the melancholy catastrophe which we now deplore, as he was suddenly attacked by an effusion on the brain, which closed his life after only four days' illness.

It is almost unnecessary for us to dwell upon the scientific merits of Professor Henfrey; his claim to occupy a place in the first rank of botanists has long been undisputed, and the amount of work which he found time to perform is perfectly marvellous. Whilst constantly engaged in the personal investigation of the structure and physiology of plants, and in preparing the original papers in which his observations were communicated to the world, and which appeared in the pages of this Journal, in the 'Transactions' of the Royal and Linnean Societies, the 'Journal of the Agricultural Society,' &c., his untiring industry also enabled him not only to furnish numerous translations and abstracts of foreign memoirs to the Natural History Journals, and to review many botanical works in the pages of the same periodicals and of the 'Quarterly Review,' but also to translate several distinct works, both from the German and French languages, and to write some excellent elementary works on botanical subjects, of which his 'Elementary Course of Botany,' published in 1857, is the last and most important. For three years also he was editor of the 'Journal of the Photographic Society;' and since the commencement of the new series of the 'Annals,' in 1858, he has been one of its most active editors. Nor must the deep research and critical acumen displayed in the articles which he wrote in the 'Micrographic Dictionary' be forgotten, the last sheets of a second edition of which he had forwarded to the printer a few days before his decease.

With all this pressure of almost incessant toil upon his hands, with health which necessitated the greatest care at all times and often laid him for days upon a bed of sickness, the uniform kindness and gentleness of his disposition was never for a moment obscured; and while the vast stores of his knowledge, always freely offered for the instruction of his friends, must of themselves have generated a respect for him in the minds of all who came in contact with him, his friends alone could fully know the extreme amiability of character which coexisted in him with the highest intellectual powers and the most unwearied energy. The kindness and charity which pervaded his whole nature, his true spirit, and his cheerful and unassuming manners, endeared him to all who knew him well; and his melancholy and untimely death leaves them the painful consciousness that his loss creates a vacancy which, to them, can never be supplied.